

to further breath testing under this subpart. If the screening test is positive, no consequence shall attach except that the employee may be removed from covered service for the period necessary to conduct a breath test meeting the criteria of paragraph (a).

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2)(iii) of this section, the conduct of a screening test under paragraph (d)(1) of this section does not excuse full compliance with paragraph (a) of this section with respect to any breath test procedure which is then undertaken. If a screening test is positive, the following procedures govern:

(i) An initial breath test shall be conducted meeting the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section.

(ii) If that test is positive, a second breath test shall be conducted meeting the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section.

(iii) The second test meeting the criteria of section (a) of this section must be conducted at least 15 minutes after the positive screening test conducted under paragraph (d)(1) of this section. However, since a waiting period of 15 minutes is sufficient to permit the dissipation of any alcohol in the mouth, the requirement of paragraph (a)(5) of this section that there be a period of at least 15 minutes between the two tests meeting the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section does not apply.

[59 FR 60563, Nov. 25, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 63467, Dec. 1, 1997]

§ 219.305 Urine test procedures and safeguards.

The conduct of urine drug testing under this subpart is governed by subpart H of this part and (to the extent not inconsistent with this part) part 40 of subtitle A of this title.

Subpart E—Identification of Troubled Employees

§ 219.401 Requirement for policies.

(a) The purpose of this subpart is to prevent the use of alcohol and drugs in connection with covered service.

(b) Each railroad shall adopt, publish and implement—

(1) A policy designed to encourage and facilitate the identification of

those covered employees who abuse alcohol or drugs as a part of a treatable condition and to ensure that such employees are provided the opportunity to obtain counseling or treatment before those problems manifest themselves in detected violations of this part (hereafter “voluntary referral policy”); and

(2) A policy designed to foster employee participation in preventing violations of this subpart and encourage co-worker participation in the direct enforcement of this part (hereafter “co-worker report policy”).

(c) A railroad may comply with this subpart by adopting, publishing and implementing policies meeting the specific requirements of §§ 219.403 and 219.405 of this subpart or by complying with § 219.407.

(d) If a railroad complies with this part by adopting, publishing and implementing policies consistent with §§ 219.403 and 219.405, the railroad shall make such policies, and publications announcing such policies, available for inspection and copying by FRA.

(e) Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to—

(1) Require payment of compensation for any period an employee is out of service under a voluntary referral or co-worker report policy;

(2) Require a railroad to adhere to a voluntary referral or co-worker report policy in a case where the referral or report is made for the purpose, or with the effect, of anticipating the imminent and probable detection of a rule violation by a supervising employee; or

(3) Limit the discretion of a railroad to dismiss or otherwise discipline an employee for specific rule violations or criminal offenses, except as specifically provided by this subpart.

§ 219.403 Voluntary referral policy.

(a) *Scope.* This section prescribes minimum standards for voluntary referral policies. Nothing in this section restricts a railroad from adopting, publishing and implementing a voluntary referral policy that affords more favorable conditions to employees troubled by alcohol or drug abuse problems, consistent with the railroad’s responsibility to prevent violations of § 219.101 and § 219.102.

(b) *Required provisions.* A voluntary referral policy shall include the following provisions:

(1) A covered employee who is affected by an alcohol or drug use problem may maintain an employment relationship with the railroad if, before the employee is charged with conduct deemed by the railroad sufficient to warrant dismissal, the employee seeks assistance through the railroad for the employee's alcohol or drug use problem or is referred for such assistance by another employee or by a representative of the employee's collective bargaining unit. The railroad shall specify whether, and under what circumstances, its policy provides for the acceptance of referrals from other sources, including (at the option of the railroad) supervisory employees.

(2) Except as may be provided under paragraph (c) of this part, the railroad treats the referral and subsequent handling, including counseling and treatment, as confidential.

(3) The railroad will, to the extent necessary for treatment and rehabilitation, grant the employee a leave of absence from the railroad for the period necessary to complete primary treatment and establish control over the employee's alcohol or drug problem. The policy must allow a leave of absence of not less than 45 days, if necessary for the purpose of meeting initial treatment needs.

(4) Except as may be provided under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the employee will be returned to service on the recommendation of the substance abuse professional. Approval to return to service may not be unreasonably withheld.

(c) *Optional provisions.* A voluntary referral policy may include any of the following provisions, at the option of the railroad:

(1) The policy may provide that the rule of confidentiality is waived if—

(i) The employee at any time refuses to cooperate in a recommended course of counseling or treatment and/or;

(ii) The employee is later determined, after investigation, to have been involved in an alcohol or drug-related disciplinary offense growing out of subsequent conduct.

(2) The policy may require successful completion of a return-to-service medical examination as a further condition on reinstatement in covered service.

(3) The policy may provide that it does not apply to an employee who has previously been assisted by the railroad under a policy or program substantially consistent with this section or who has previously elected to waive investigation under § 219.405 of this section (co-worker report policy).

(4) The policy may provide that, in order to invoke its benefits, the employee must report to the contact designated by the railroad either:

(i) During non-duty hours (*i.e.*, at a time when the employee is off duty) or

(ii) While unimpaired and otherwise in compliance with the railroad's alcohol and drug rules consistent with this subpart.

§ 219.405 Co-worker report policy.

(a) *Scope.* This section prescribes minimum standards for co-worker report policies. Nothing in this section restricts a railroad from adopting, publishing and implementing a policy that affords more favorable conditions to employees troubled by alcohol or drug abuse problems, consistent with the railroad's responsibility to prevent violations of §§ 219.101 and 219.102.

(b) *Employment relationship.* A co-worker report policy shall provide that a covered employee may maintain an employment relationship with the railroad following an alleged first offense under these rules or the railroad's alcohol and drug rules, subject to the conditions and procedures contained in this section.

(c) *General conditions and procedures.*

(1) The alleged violation must come to the attention of the railroad as a result of a report by a co-worker that the employee was apparently unsafe to work with or was, or appeared to be, in violation of this part or the railroad's alcohol and drug rules.

(2) If the railroad representative determines that the employee is in violation, the railroad may immediately remove the employee from service in accordance with its existing policies and procedures.

(3) The employee must elect to waive investigation on the rule charge and